**Mr. A. B. Salem.**—While I was a servant of the State years ago, investigating the Fisheries, I used to send franked covers.

**Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.**—That was before Service Labels were introduced. It still continues with regard to covers coming from Palaces.

**Mr. A. B. Salem.**—We are bringing this to your notice so that you may reprimand the Anchal Superintendent.

## Amendments to Standing Orders assented to by His Highness the Maharaja.

**Mr. T. K. Krishna Menon.**—Sir, I beg to announce that the draft amendments to Standing Orders 65 and 66 passed by this Council on the 18th of Vrischigam 1102, corresponding to the 3rd of December 1926, have been assented to by His Highness the Maharaja on the 3rd of Meenam 1102, corresponding to the 16th of March 1927.

**Mr. K. T. Mathew.**—Does it mean that they have received the assent of His Highness' Government? Is it the assent of His Highness the Maharaja or of some body else? Section 4 refers to this.

**President.**—Is it given under this section?

**Mr. A. B. Salem.**—Under section 10 of the Regulation "assent" means "the assent of the Government", and section 13 (2) says that the assent to a Bill is "Our assent." In one "Our Government assent" is used, and in the other "Our assent" means "His Highness' assent".

**President.**—The Government's assent is whose assent? Who is to interpret all these? Who has got the authority to do so?

**Mr. A. B. Salem.**—You have got the authority.

**President.**—Throw some light on this point, Mr. Achyuta Menon.

**Mr. K. Achyuta Menon.**—I don't think anybody is in the dark. Everybody knows.

**Mr. K. T. Mathew.**—Nobody knows, Sir.

**Mr. K. Achyuta Menon.**—His Highness represents the Government.

**Dr. A. G. Menon.**—We were ignorant of that definition. Now we accept it.

**Mr. K. Achyuta Menon.**—His Highness has full control. He delegates his authority to the Diwan and the Heads of Departments. The decision of the Government means the decision of His Highness.

**President.**—"Our assent" is, no doubt, His Highness' assent. There cannot be any mistake with regard to this.

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When we say "Our Government," it means His Highness' Government.

**Mr. K. Achyuta Menon.**—Practically the final decision will be that of His Highness. The Proceedings of the Government will be that of His Highness' Government.

**President.**—"Our Government" is His Highness' Government.

**Mr. K. Achyuta Menon.**—"Our Proceedings" means the Proceedings of the Government of Cochin. That is the only definition. Supposing there is a difference of opinion between the Diwan and His Highness, finally His Highness' decision must govern the case. Of course, there are advisors to His Highness. "Our Government", "Our Diwan," "Our assent"—all these are different expressions.

**Mr. C. Achyuta Menon.**—In the Regulations passed from 1060, that is for the last 40 years, we do not find the first person at all.—"Our" or "We" or anything of the kind—but only "Government" or "the Diwan". These are the words used. A mess has been made of the whole thing by the introduction of the first person in this Regulation, namely, with "Our assent", "after the Bill receives Our assent", "subject to the assent of Our Government", etc. Probably, all these mean the same thing.

**Mr. A. B. Salem.**—They do not mean the same thing.

**Mr. C. Achyuta Menon.**—May mean the same thing.

**Mr. A. B. Salem.**—Was not the present Government Advocate, the Government Advocate when this Regulation was framed?

**President.**—He was.

**Mr. A. B. Salem.**—Then he should have used words to classify the meaning of the words "Our Government". For instance, in section 13, we find three words—"Our Diwan", "Our Government", "Our assent". Three spheres of action are given. My question is whether the word "Government" denotes His Highness alone or whether it denotes His Highness and somebody else—whether the Government Advocate's assent is necessary and the Diwan's assent and His Highness' final approval. I want to know whether '*Our Government*' is purposely used for the purpose of pointing out that His Highness would be the constitutional Ruler, that "Our Government" will be a representative one, and "Our Diwan" will be another—something like the Viceroy of India. Perhaps, to point out to such time these words are used. We must at least get familiar with the words; so that it cannot be without any meaning. That is the reason why I ask the question. The different

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spheres of action are given. The sphere of recommending laws is given to this Council. Formerly it was not the case. A committee was to give it.

**Mr. C. Achyuta Menon.**—Uniformity in phraseology would be very desirable.

**President.**—What we have done is we have obtained the sanction of His Highness to these Standing Orders, and it is so expressed here. We understand His Highness to be the fountain and source of all these, as everything is centered in His Highness, who, for the convenient administration of the State, delegates these powers.

**Mr. A. B. Salem.**—That is past history.

**President.**—When we say " Our Government" and "My Government", it means His Highness is the constitutional Ruler carrying on various actions. For the convenient administration of the State, there is the Diwan and the Heads of Departments under him. The Government, in some cases, embraces all these. His Highness' sanction will be necessary, unless His Highness dispenses with the obtaining of sanction in any particular case.

**Mr. A. B. Salem.**—That is what I wanted to know—by the use of the words "Our Government" whether the power of assenting to the Standing Orders is not delegated by His Highness to that particular body which is called "the Government", which here should be the Diwan. "Our Government" and "Our Diwan" must coincide.

**President.**—We have got some departmental rules to say in what all matters His Highness' sanction should be obtained, in what matters the Diwan is the final authority, in what matters the Heads of Departments can dispose of matters; all these are defined in *the Standing Orders*.

**Mr. A. B. Salem.**—During the time of the late Diwan Sir T. Vijayaraghavachari in Cochin, all the Proceedings of the Diwan were known as "the Proceedings of the Government of Cochin." Immediately he left Shoranur, the rule was passed that the Proceedings of the Diwan shall be " Proceedings of the Diwan of Cochin "and not the " Proceedings of the Government of Cochin." At once the word "Government" was taken away. What was denoted by the word " Government " was clear. In place of the word " Diwan" the word "Government" appeared—. "The Proceedings of the Diwan" replaced "the Proceedings of the Government."

**Mr. K. Achyuta Menon.**—The Proceedings of the Diwan are not Proceedings of the Government.

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**Mr. A. B. Salem.**—For three years you have been carrying on the administration like that, and still you say to-day that "the Government" does not mean anything but "His Highness".

**President.**—That is alright.

**Mr. K. T. Mathew.**—This is of importance to us, Sir, because, if His Highness' sanction is necessary, and His Highness does not give the sanction, we cannot find fault with His Highness. His Highness is above the Council, and we cannot criticise his ruling. If it is the Diwan's ruling, we have every right to criticise it.

**President.**—By all means, criticise.

**Mr. K. T. Mathew.**—This is of paramount importance. That is why we want to know whether "Our Government" stands for "Our Diwan".

**President.**—That question does not arise. When the question arises, you may put it.

## A Bill to amend the Cochin Court of Wards Regulation.

**Mr. N. Padmanabha Menon.**—On a point of order, Sir. According to the supplementary agenda supplied to us, the next motion is one under Standing Order 42 (1) that the Bill to amend the Cochin Court of Wards Regulation be taken up and passed. Last time, when the motion that the Bill be taken up and passed was made in the Council, it was negatived. So, there is no Bill before the House now. Section 42 (1) applies only to a particular class of Bills, that is, "if no amendment be made when a motion that the Bill be taken into consideration has been agreed to by the Council, or if the amendments proposed have been considered by the Council, the Member in charge of the Bill, or, in his absence, any Member may move that the Bill or the Bill as amended may be taken up and passed at a subsequent meeting." Here a motion under section 42 (1) was made last time, and that motion was negatived. So a further motion during this meeting is not in order.

**President.**—That motion was that it might be taken up and passed at a subsequent meeting on a particular day. That was negatived. Is there any objection for the moving and the passing of the Bill at this meeting?

**Mr. N. Padmanabha Menon.**—I submit it is not in order.

**Mr. K. T. Mathew.**—You have disallowed some of my resolutions under Standing Order No. 22.

**President.**—Mr. Achyuta Menon, you moved that the Bill, as amended, be passed at a meeting on a particular day. That was rejected.

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